

# **Mexican Wolf Reintroduction Update**

## **March 28- April 28, 2000**

This is a brief summary of current information about the Mexican wolf reintroduction for the interested public. Additional copies of this update and other information can be obtained by calling (505) 248-6664 or (520) 367-4281 or visiting our web site, <http://ifw2es.fws.gov/MexicanWolf/>. Call the toll-free number at (888) 459-9653 to report suspected livestock depredation or incidents of take or harassment of wolves. The reintroduction is a multi-agency cooperative effort (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Arizona Game and Fish Department, New Mexico Department of Game and Fish, USDA-Wildlife Services, U.S. Forest Service).

### **FIELD ACTIVITIES**

#### **Campbell Blue Pack (M166, F518, f592, f594): Arizona**

CB F518 was released from the pen on March 9. She and the male appeared to bond immediately, remaining together since that time. The two yearling females were released on April 11 and began traveling with the adults. On April 14, the Campbell Blue pack was involved in an incident with a Forest permittee on horseback, riding with six dogs in the East Eagle Creek area. The wolves began fighting with three of the dogs. The rider was able to frighten the yearlings off immediately. The adult pair remained in the area, and the female wolf exhibited extremely bold behavior towards the horse, bumping it with her shoulder and front feet. Neither the horse or rider was injured, and only one dog had minor injuries which did not require veterinary attention. Because of the boldness of the alpha female towards the horse and rider, project personnel captured the female on April 23 and returned her to captivity. We will attempt to facilitate a bond between the yearlings and the male, who are not genetically related. Ultimately, one of the females could pair with the alpha male.

#### **Hawks Nest Pack (M131, F486, + pups 600, 601, 602 - genders unknown): Arizona**

The pack has been moving within their usual territory from Campbell blue drainage to the Williams valley area. Aerial observations indicate they have made several elk kills in the last three weeks. Only two pups have consistently been seen, suggesting one has not survived.

#### **Gavilan Yearling (m555): Arizona**

Several sighting reports of this wolf have been received. Project staff have followed up with aerial flights and ground tracking but have not yet confirmed his location.

#### **Cienega Pack (M174, F487, m619, f621): Arizona**

The pack continues to explore the area around their release pen. They have been located about a mile east of Hannagan Meadows and also in KP Creek.

#### **Mule Pack (M190, F189, m578, m580): New Mexico**

Mule pack chewed out of a mesh pen designed for that purpose during the last week of March. After their release in the Gila Wilderness, the pack remained in the area around their release pen near Lily Park for approximately one week. On April 13, M190, m578

and m580 were located by aerial telemetry on a private ranch approximately 5 miles east of the town of Cliff, NM, some 25 air miles from their release site. The alpha female F189 has remained in the Lily Park area and her movements suggest she is tending pups in a den. Trapping efforts for the three males have been underway since April 16. We will attempt to reunite the alpha male with his mate.

**Pipestem Pack (M208, F191, f624, m627, f628): New Mexico**

The Pipestem pack was transferred into the Gila Wilderness by mules on April 4 and placed in a mesh pen in the Halfmoon Park area. On April 15 field personnel opened the gate on the pen. The pack has remained in the area around their release pen. Alpha female F191 was pregnant at the time of the transfer. On April 27, f624 was located approximately 20 miles away from her pack on Forest Service land near Alma, NM. This wolf appears to be subordinate to the other pack members and may be a factor in why she has left the pack.